

## LOCATION

The starting point and parking area for all three loops of the trail system is at the Richloam Fire Tower Trailhead, located 0.6 miles southeast of State Road 50 on Clay Sink Road. The trailhead is located on the Richloam Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest, 10 miles north of Dade City, and 19 miles east of Brooks-

## DESCRIPTION

The hiking trails are dry-to-damp, all-weather trails that wind through a variety of plant communities including pine flatwoods, pine plantations, cypress ponds and hardwood hammocks. Low areas may be wet, especially during the summer rainy season. Wildlife found in the area includes deer, bobcat, turkey, wild hog, alligator and armadillo. Snakes may also be present.

## DESIGNATION

The main hiking trails, including the Green Swamp West Trail turnoff, are blazed in yellow. The cross trails and connector trails are blazed in blue. Blazes are marked within sight distance of each other at eye-level. Blazes are about two inches wide and six inches long. Signs showing the international symbol for hikers supplements blazes where needed.

## WATER

Drinking (potable) water is available at the Richloam Fire Tower Trailhead. For longer, hot weather or overnight hiking trips, you may wish to cache supplemental water at forest road crossings prior to hiking.

## FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC

The Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) meanders 1,300 miles across Florida, leading hikers through many of Florida's natural wonders. In 1983 the US Congress designated the Florida Trail as part of the National Trails System, making it one of only eight National Scenic Trails. It is the only National Scenic Trail where hikers can enjoy both subtropical and temperate ecosystems. The FNST designation in Richloam includes the Green Swamp Connector Trail, and continues northward on the western portions of the South and North Loops to Porter Gap Road.

## TRAILWALKERS

The *South Loop* of the Richloam Hiking Trails is one of the Withlacoochee State Forest nature or hiking trails included in the Florida Forest Service *Trailwalker* program. This program offers recognition awards for hiking 10 to 30 trails in state forests all across Florida. More information is available at the Visitor Center.

## CAMPING

Overnight primitive camping is permitted only within the camp zones designated by yellow-banded trees. These are located between Porter Gap Road and Pole Bridge Road, between Riverland, Clay Sink and South Carter Pond Road and between Laccochee Grade and the Green Swamp West Trail turnoff. Campgrounds with bathhouses are located on the nearby Croom Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest.

## TIPS

- Tread lightly. Stick to the path and avoid trampling the sensitive vegetation around you.
- Keep a bandanna on hand when hiking. It has many uses: sponge, napkin, bandage, etc.
- If you are hiking a lengthy trail, be sure to take along sunscreen, insect repellent and a container of water.
- Wear good hiking shoes or hiking boots. If you have to break them in, do it before the hike.
- Pace yourself. If you aren't an experienced hiker, don't take on a 10-mile trail your first time out. We have a number of shorter hiking/nature trails (averaging two+ miles each) to get you started.
- Take your time; there is plenty to observe out on the trails.

[www.FDACS.gov/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Our-Forests/State-Forests/Withlacoochee-State-Forest](http://www.FDACS.gov/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Our-Forests/State-Forests/Withlacoochee-State-Forest)

## RICHLOAM HIKING TRAILS

# Withlacoochee State Forest



Florida Forest Service management plans include prescribed burning most months of the year. For personal safety reasons, area users should contact the FFS for information and location of burn areas, (352) 797-4100.

**Withlacoochee Visitor Center**  
15003 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34601  
Phone: (352) 797-4140 Fax: (352) 797-4108  
[www.FDACS.com](http://www.FDACS.com)

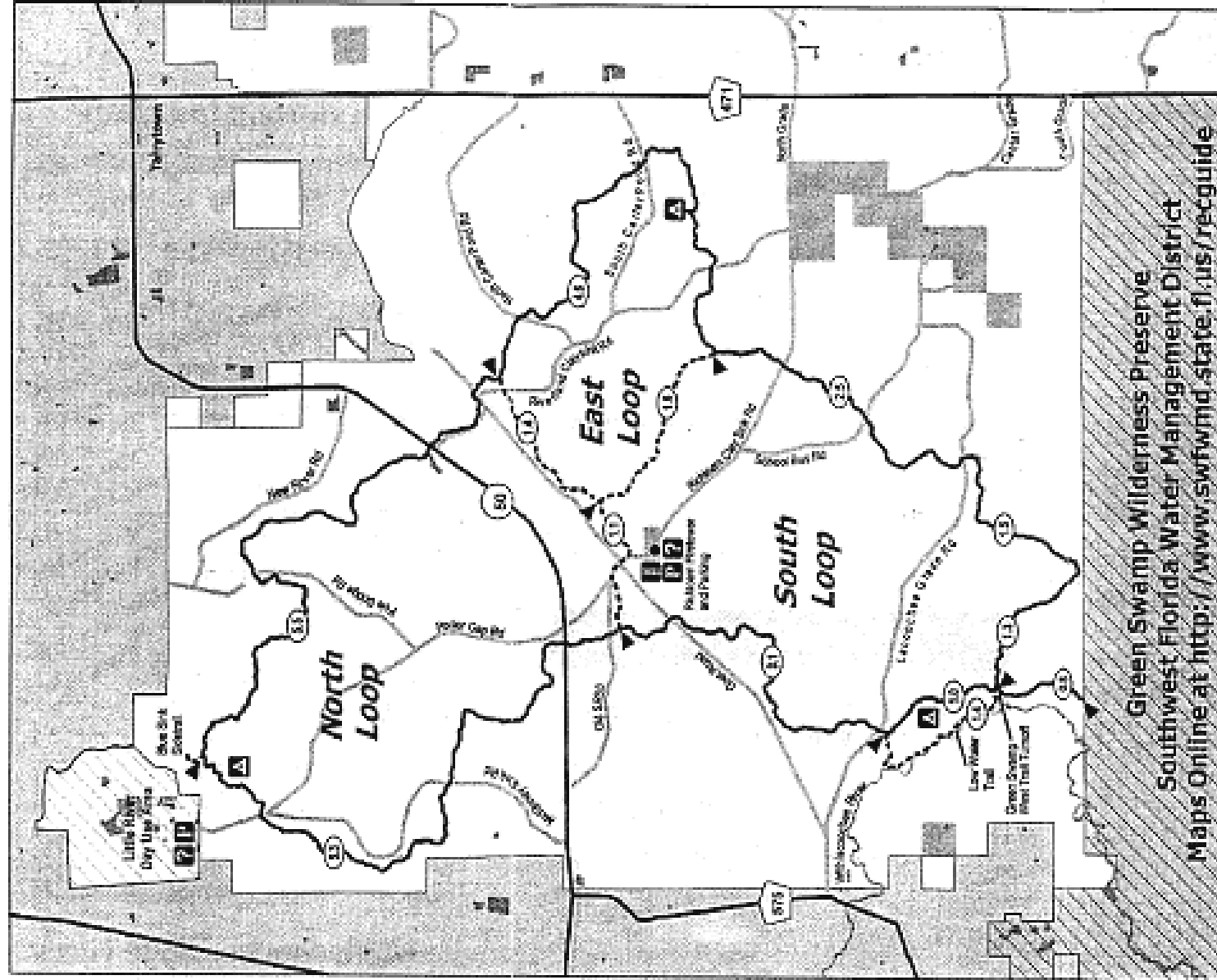
## RULES OF THE TRAIL

- Only cooking fires are allowed in the primitive camping zones. Bonfires are not permitted. Fires may be prohibited during times of high wildfire potential.
- Parking for vehicles is provided at the trailheads. Please do not park in the driveway. The Florida Forest Service is not responsible for articles lost, damaged or stolen.
- Dig a six-inch-deep hole for human waste, well away from the camp zone. Be sure to cover it completely.
- Please help keep the camp zone in its natural state. All litter must be packed out. Do not bury or burn it. Report any irregularities to the Visitor Center.
- Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited except in designated areas per s. 589.011(4) FS, and 5I-4.005(17) FAC.

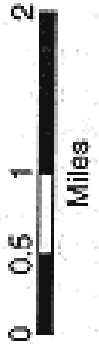
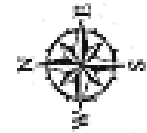
The Richloam Hiking Trails were established by the Florida Forest Service in cooperation with the Florida Trail Association for the enjoyment of hikers and nature lovers.

Much of the Withlacoochee State Forest is divided into Wildlife Management Areas administered by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission. All rules and regulations pertaining to firearms, dogs, game and non-game animals and other wildlife management area regulations must be followed. The Richloam Wildlife Management Area is legally open to hunting during specified seasons from September through April. Check in advance for open hunt season dates and restrictions related to open hunts. Bright colored clothing is recommended when hunt seasons are open. Hunting rules and regulations for the Wildlife Management Areas are available at [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com) or the Withlacoochee Visitor Center.

We hope you enjoy the Richloam Hiking Trails. Please follow good hiking and safety practices. Maps and information may be obtained from the Visitor Center.



## Withlacoochee State Forest Richloam Hiking Trails



### Legend

- Hiking Main Trail
- ..... Hiking Connector Trail
- Primary Forest Roads
- Main Highways
- ▲ Primitive Camping
- P Parking
- ? Information
- 🔥 Fire Tower
- ▲ Trail Mileage Indicators